

01 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

026 BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL

Chapter 32: CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING PROVISIONS FOR PRIVATE APPLICATORS

SUMMARY: These regulations describe the requirements for certification and licensing of private applicators.

1. Competency Standards for Certification - Private Applicator

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- A. No person shall be certified as a private applicator unless he has fulfilled requirements demonstrating his knowledge of basic subjects including pesticide label comprehension, ability to read and understand pesticide labeling, safety, environmental concerns, stewardship, pest organisms, pesticides, equipment, application techniques, responsibilities for supervisors of non-certified applicators, and applicable laws and regulations. Also required shall be knowledge of current methodology and technology for the control of pesticide drift to non-target areas, the proper meteorological conditions for the application of pesticides, and the potential adverse effect of pesticides on plants, animals or humans (core exam). Applicators must also follow the standards outlined in 40 CFR 171.201 and 40 CFR 171.105(a) (1 through 11).
- B. No person shall be certified as a private applicator unless he has demonstrated knowledge of the general principles of pest control for his major commodity, including specific pests of the crop, their life cycle, and proper timing of control measures to be efficacious (Commodity Exam).

2. Certification Procedures for Private Applicators

A. Initial Certification

1. Any person attempting to certify as a private applicator must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Any person seeking to be certified as a private applicator must pass a written core exam and a written exam in the area of his primary commodity. Both exams shall be closed book.
3. Exams may be taken at cooperating County University of Maine Cooperative Extension offices. Exams may also be offered at other locations designated by the Board staff or available on an appointment basis at the office of the Board.
4. **Examination Procedures.** All applicants shall comply with these rules or forfeit their opportunity to complete the exams at a specified appointment.

- a. Applicant shall present a government issued identification to the moderator prior to commencement of exams.
 - b. Applicants should be present and ready to take the exams at the appointed time.
 - c. Applicants shall not talk during the examination period.
 - d. Applicants shall not be allowed to bring any books, papers, calculators or electronically stored data into the examining room. Pencils and work sheets will be provided and all papers shall be collected at the end of the period.
 - e. Applicants shall not make notes of the exams and shall not leave the table during an exam unless authorized by the staff.
5. **Qualification Requirements.** An applicant must achieve a passing score of 80 percent on each exam.
- a. An applicant who fails the core exam may not retake that examination prior to 6 days after the date of such failed examination. If an applicant fails again the applicant must wait 6 more days before retaking the exam again.
 - b. An applicant who fails the exam in the area of his primary commodity may not retake the that examination prior to 6 days after the date of such failed examination. If an applicant fails again the applicant must wait 6 more days before retaking the exam again.
 - c. Any applicant must pass both the core and at least one commodity exam within 12 months before qualifying for certification.
 - d. Any applicant who violates any of the rules pertaining to examinations shall wait a minimum of 60 days before retesting.
6. Certification under this section will expire on October 31st of the third year after the date of successful completion of the exams and on October 31st of every third year thereafter unless a special restricted certification period is assigned by the Board or Board staff.
- B. **Supplemental Certification.** Private applicators who are certified as described in Section 2(A), and intend to conduct soil fumigation, non-soil fumigation or aerial applications must be certified in the appropriate supplemental category. Certification is obtained by passing a written exam with a minimum score of 80.
1. Supplemental category exams shall be closed book.
 2. Supplemental category exams will be available year-round on an appointment basis at the Board's office in Augusta.

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3. Examination and qualification requirements described in Section 2(A)(4-6) pertain to supplemental certification.
4. **Categories for Supplemental Certification of Private Applicators**
 - a. **Soil Fumigation.** This category includes private applicators using or supervising the use of pesticides to fumigate crops in production including blueberries, orchard fruit, potatoes, vegetables, forage, grain and industrial or non-food crops as outlined in 40 CFR 171.195(d) (2023).
 - b. **Non-soil Fumigation.** This category includes private applicators using or supervising the use of fumigant pesticides or fumigation techniques in any type of structure or transportation device as outlined in 40 CFR 171.195(e) (2023).
 - c. **Aerial.** This category includes private applicators, including pilots and co-pilots, applying pesticides by means of any aircraft as outlined in 40 CFR 171.195(f) (2023).
5. **Competency Standards for Supplemental Certification of Private Applicators**

Applicants seeking supplemental private certification must demonstrate competency in each applicable category (Category Exam). Competency in the applicable category shall be established as follows:

- a. **Soil Fumigation.** Applicants seeking supplemental certification in the category of Soil Fumigation as described in Section 2(B)(4)(a) must demonstrate practical knowledge of the crops grown and the specific pests of those crops on which they may be using pesticides. Areas of such practical knowledge shall include soil and water problems, preharvest intervals, reentry intervals, phytotoxicity, potential for environmental contamination, non-target injury, and community problems related to pesticide use in certain areas. Also required shall be a knowledge of current methodology and technology for the control of pesticide drift to non-target areas, the proper meteorological conditions for the application of pesticides, and the potential adverse effect of pesticides on plants, animals or humans. In addition to the above competencies, private applicators obtaining supplemental certification in this category must demonstrate practical knowledge of topics indicated in 40 CFR 171.105 (d) (~~2017~~2023).
- b. **Non-soil Fumigation.** Applicants seeking supplemental certification in the category of Structural Fumigation as described in Section 2(B)(4)(b) must demonstrate a practical knowledge of a wide variety of pests and fumigation methods for their control. Such knowledge shall include identification of pests and knowledge of life cycles, fumigant formulations, methods to avoid contamination of food and damage to structures and furnishings, and avoidance of risks to employees. In addition to the above competencies, private applicators obtaining

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supplemental certification in this category must demonstrate practical knowledge of topics indicated in 40 CFR 171.105 (e) (~~2017~~2023).

- c. **Aerial Pest Control.** Applicants seeking supplemental certification in the category of Aerial Pest Control as described in Section 2(B)(4)(c) must demonstrate at least a practical knowledge of problems which are of special significance in aerial application of pesticides, including chemical dispersal equipment, tank, pump and plumbing arrangements; nozzle selection and location; ultra-low volume systems; aircraft calibration; field flight patterns; droplet size considerations; flagging methods; and loading procedures. Also required shall be a knowledge of current methodology and technology for the control of pesticide drift to non-target areas, the proper meteorological conditions for the application of pesticides, and the potential adverse effect of pesticides on plants, animals or humans. In addition to the above competencies, private applicators obtaining supplemental certification in this category must demonstrate practical knowledge of topics indicated in 40 CFR 171.105 (f) (~~2017~~2023).

- C. **Requirements for Noncertified Applicators.** A certified applicator directly supervising a noncertified applicator to use restricted use pesticides must follow the provisions in 40 CFR 171.201 (2023).

D. **Recertification**

1. Any person with current valid certification may renew that certification by accumulating 6 recertification credits during the certification period described in Section 2(A)6.
2. Recertification credits will be available through Board-approved meetings including but not limited to industry and trade organization seminars, workshops where pesticide topics are presented and approved home study courses.
3. Credit will be allowed for topics including, but not limited to:
 - a. Applicable laws and regulations.
 - b. Environmental hazards.
 - c. Calibration and new application techniques.
 - d. Label review.
 - e. Applicator safety.
 - f. Storage and disposal.
 - g. Pest identification and control.
 - h. Integrated pest management.

4. Persons organizing meetings for which they want credits awarded must contact the Board in writing at least 15 days in advance of the meeting and submit details of the pesticide topics, including titles and length of time devoted to them. Board staff will review program agendas and assign credit values. Board staff will monitor programs as time permits.
 - a. A minimum credit of one hour shall be assigned for each one hour of presentation on appropriate topics.
 - b. An individual conducts a meeting for which the Board does assign recertification credits will be eligible for two credits for each 1 hour of presentation on appropriate topics.
5. For in state programs, each participant will complete a form to verify attendance at each program for which credit is allowed at the site. For out of state programs, applicators must notify the Board about attendance and send a registration receipt or other proof of attendance and a copy of the agenda or other description of the presentations attended. The agenda must show the length of each presentation and describe what was covered.
6. A person who fails to accumulate the necessary credits will have to re-apply to take the exams required for initial certification.

3. Licensing

- A. **Application.** Application for a private applicator license, shall be on forms provided by the Board. Information shall include name; Social Security number; mailing address; farm name, location and telephone number; and major crop(s).
- B. **Fee.** At the time of application, the applicant must tender the appropriate fee as follows:
 1. For a private applicator license - \$15.00 per person.
 2. For replacement or alteration - \$5.00.
- C. **Expiration.** Private applicator licenses are issued on a three-year period and will expire on October 31st of the third year. Any person who has accumulated the required number of recertification credits must apply for license renewal within one year of the expiration date of the license or the recertification credits are forfeited and that person must retake and pass both the core and commodity exams to again be eligible for licensing.
- D. **Decision.** Within 60 days of receipt of application by the Board, unless the applicant agrees to a longer period of time, the Director shall issue, renew or deny the license. The Director's decision shall be considered final agency action for purposes of 5 M.R.S.A. §11001 *et seq.*

- E. **License Issued.** Licenses issued under this rule will include the following information:
- I. Full name of applicator
 - II. License number
 - III. Commodities and categories
 - IV. Expiration date
 - V. Maine statute under which license is issued
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STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 22 M.R.S. §1471-D

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AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE:

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